

ON THE IDENTITY OF THE GENUS *LEURYNNIS*, LOCKINGTON,  
WITH *LYCODOPSIS*, COLLETT.

By THEODORE GILL.

In the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London for 1879 (at pp. 380-381) Mr. Robert Collett has published a communication "On a fish of the genus *Lycodes* from the Pacific." The article was read at the meeting held April 1, 1879, and published in the part (II) issued August 1, 1879.

In this article Mr. Collett describes at length the species referred to, under the name *Lycodes pacificus*, and gives a figure of the head and anterior part of the body. The diagnosis is as follows:

"Vomerine and palatine teeth none. Coloration uniform yellowish grey. The body is scaly, the head and pectorals naked. The head is contained four and six-tenths, the height of the body nine times, in the total length. Lateral line very indistinct.

"M. B. 6; D. (circa) 92; A. 71; C. (circa) I, 1; P. 18.

"*Hab.*—Japan (*Mus. Berol.*)."

At the end of the description Mr. Collett expresses the following opinion:

"The absence of vomerine and palatine teeth, a character quite peculiar to the species, will perhaps necessitate its removal to a separate genus, for which I propose the name *Lycodopsis*."

In the Proceedings of the United States National Museum for 1879 (at pp. 326-332) Mr. W. N. Lockington has given "Descriptions of new genera and species of fishes from the coast of California." The signature in which it appears was issued March 25, 1880.

In this article Mr. Lockington describes what is considered to be a new generic type, under the name *Leurynnis paucidens*. The diagnosis of the genus is as follows:

"*Generic characters.*—Family *Zoarcidae*, allied to *Lycodes*. Ventral fins present, short; no teeth on vomer and palatines; dorsal and anal fins continued without interruption around the tail; scales small, but evident. The name is from *λευρός*—smooth; *ὄννις*—vomer, in allusion to the character which chiefly distinguishes the genus from *Lycodes*."

Selecting characters to compare with those mentioned in Mr. Collett's diagnosis, we have the following:

"No vomerine or palatine teeth.—Color olivaceous, the scales lighter than the skin; the color formed by numerous dark points, which are continued also upon the head. Upper surface of head darker, abdominal surface lighter than other portions. Vertical fins margined with black.—Scales roundish, smooth, separate, imbedded in the skin, uniform over the whole of the body, except upon an area on the upper surface in front of the dorsal, where they are smaller, and region near base of pectorals scaleless. Head scaleless—the ridges somewhat prominent.—

Length of head  $4\frac{1}{3}$ – $4\frac{2}{3}$  times in the total length.—Greatest depth of body from a little more than ten to a little less than eleven times.—No lateral line."

M. B. 6; D. 90; A. 70; P. 18.

As will be thus seen, the two fishes are certainly congeneric, and are evidently very closely related. Even the slight discrepancies are apparently such (as in the case of the color) as result from difference of interpretation of the same characters. The vertical fins in the Californian form, however, are distinctly said to be "margined with black," while in the Japanese form it is at least implied that they are not. It is quite probable, nevertheless, that even these alleged differences may be found to be rather of degree than of kind. In view, however, of the difference of distribution, it is reasonable to suppose that the two forms will be found to be distinct, and, as the genus appears to be perfectly valid, they will rank as species, with the following names:

1. *LYCODOPSIS PACIFICUS*.

*Lycodes pacificus* Collett, Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1879, p. 381.

*Hab.*—Japan.

2. *LYCODOPSIS PAUCIDENS*.

*Leurymnis paucidens* Lockington, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. 1879, p. 326.

*Hab.*—California.

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**DESCRIPTION OF A NEW CHIROID FISH, MYRIOLEPIS ZONIFER, FROM MONTEREY BAY, CALIFORNIA.**

**By W. N. LOCKINGTON.**

*Myriolepis*, gen. nov. (*Chiridae*).

Body oblong, rather stout; mouth moderate; cardiform teeth in both jaws, slightly larger anteriorly; no canines; teeth on vomer and palatines; preopercle entire; no spines about the head. Gill-openings separated by a narrow isthmus; gill-rakers short. Branchiostegals seven. Pseudobranchiae present. Dorsal fins two, united at base, the first with about 14 rather stiff spines, the second with as many soft rays. Anal short, of about 13 rays, without distinct spine. Scales very small, ctenoid, covering the whole surface of the body and head and the greater portion of all the fins except the first dorsal. Lateral line single.

Etymology: *μυρίον*, myriad; *λεπίς*, scale.

This genus bears little resemblance to any of the previously known *Chiridae*, its general appearance being quite *Serranoid*. It has, however, a bony stay connecting the suborbital and preoperculum, and possesses the technical characters of the *Chiridae*, in which group it should form a distinct subfamily, differing especially in the shorter anal fin without distinct spines.

*Myriolepis zonifer*, sp. nov.

Lower jaw slightly projecting; snout to summit of ascending process of premaxillary inclined backwards at about  $45^\circ$ ; forehead slightly con-